

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1951



Arthur Lucas

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Arthur Lucas

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Brackley.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report for 1951 of the Medical Officer of Health and your Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious diseases were similar to the rest of the County and there were no deaths due to them.

It is pleasant to report that the sewage and water undertakings are progressing so well and it should not be long till many more villages have a good water supply.

The fact that a sub-committee accompanied the Sanitary Inspector and myself on a visit to a shop which had been under observation for some time was very gratifying, and was an object lesson on how a food-shop should not be kept. While this in no way takes the place of constant supervision by my Sanitary Inspectors, I think it is a good thing to let the members of the Health Committee see what conditions sometimes are.

The Mobile Dental Unit has been in this area and was of great use, as many school children could not obtain attention from local sources.

Again I wish to thank Mr. Turbitt and Mr. Mayhew for their great help and also that of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

*Public Health Dept.,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.*

June, 1952.

Brackley Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council :

F. T. KIELDSEN, ESQ., J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

J. N. GIBBARD, ESQ.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

MESSRS. J. N. GIBBARD (Chairman), E. H. BARKER, L. S. PROSSER.
LT. COL. V. G. TOLER-AYLWARD (Vice-Chairman), LT. GEN. SIR
B. N. SERGISON-BROOKE, MRS. M. E. JOHNSON, MRS. L. ACRID,
CAPT. G. W. M. LEES, H. S. BARTLETT, L. C. BARTLETT, W. F.
GOLDSMITH, H. E. SALSURY, and J. O. TAYLOR.

*The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members
of the Public Health Committee.*

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health in the Brackley Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Daventry Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Daventry R.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northants County
Council.

Assistant County School Medical Officer, Northants County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. TURBITT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. MAYHEW, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors :

P. E. ADAMS (*Resigned—30.6.51*).

E. A. THOMAS (*Commenced—16.7.51*).

Rodent Operative :

W. G. BARTLETT.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1951.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,930
Number of separate dwellings, occupied, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,220
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	£34,911
Product of a penny rate at 31st March, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	£130/0/0

Live Births		Total	Male	Female	Rate (per 1,000 population)	England & Wales
Legitimate	...	158	82	76		
Illegitimate	...	6	2	4		
Total		164	84	80	16.5	15.5
Stillbirths		Total	Male	Female	Rate (per 1,000 population)	England & Wales
Legitimate	...	3	2	1		
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—		
Total		3	2	1	0.31	0.36

Deaths (all causes)	127	71	56	12.7	12.5
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Infant Mortality—per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	...	5	2	3	30.4	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	—	
Total		5	2	3	30.4	29.6

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	20
„	„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	Nil.
„	„	Measles	...	...	Nil.
„	„	Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil.
„	„	Infectious Diseases	...	...	Nil.

The registered causes of death were :—

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Hypertension	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
10.	Hyperplasia of Prostate...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis : Polio Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
15.	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
17.	Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	9	5	14
18.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	6	12	18
19.	Coronary Disease	...	...	...	...	8	4	12
20.	Other Diseases of Heart	...	...	...	...	14	8	22
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	7	12
23.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
24.	Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25.	Gastritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Disorders	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
36.	Other Ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	9	14
37.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
						71	56	127

Population. The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General for the past eight years are as follows :

1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
9,050	9,100	8,980	9,150	9,320	9,482	9,674	9,930

The natural increase in population, or the excess of births over deaths, was 24.

Death Rate 1943-51.

Year	Brackley				North- ampton- shire	England and Wales
	Total	M.	F.	Recorded Rate		
1943	164	82	82	17.3	12.29	12.10
1944	195	119	76	20.5	12.65	11.60
1945	175	91	78	19.2	12.34	11.40
1946	100	46	54	11.13	12.00	11.50
1947	149	85	64	16.28	12.43	12.00
1948	97	53	44	10.4	11.00	10.8
1949	124	62	62	13.0	12.07	11.7
1950	124	66	58	13.0	12.01	11.6
1951	127	71	56	12.7	*	12.5

Birth Rate 1943-51.

			1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Brackley	...	...	17.3	20.5	19.2	22.5	20.44	21.9	17.9	20.2	16.5
Northamptonshire...			17.91	20.07	18.98	19.17	20.42	17.46	16.19	15.71	*
England and Wales			16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5

Births. The number of live births assigned to this district was 164, compared with 196 in 1950. The birth rate for 1951 of 16.5, is 3.7 per thousand less than the rate for 1950, but is higher than the rate of 15.5 for England and Wales.

Still-Birth Rate, 1951.

Still-Births. The number of still-births during 1951 was 2 males and 1 female.

Illegitimate Births. There were 6 illegitimate births assigned to the district in 1951 (2 males, 4 females) 5 less than in 1950.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE, 1943-51

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births.

			1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Brackley	...	...	48.9	35.9	17.14	44.5	42.78	29.27	29.8	20.8	30.4
Northamptonshire...			40.4	38.00	39.17	36.86	35.07	31.67	33.78	29.53	*
England and Wales			49.00	46.00	46.00	43.00	41.00	34.00	32.00	29.8	29.6

* Not available

The number of children who died before reaching their first birthday was five.

Maternal Mortality. It is pleasing to note that again in 1951 there were no deaths from Puerperal Causes, or conditions allied to childbirth.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream and water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. This service is entirely free.

(b) NURSING IN THE HOME.

The County Council now provide "Nursing in the Home" services and also arrange for "Home Help" where possible.

(c) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Infant Welfare—Brackley.

Orthopædic Clinic.

Vision Clinic.

Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney.

} Organised by
County Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT.

Water Supply. Work in connection with the regional water supply is proceeding steadily but, owing to difficulties in regard to labour and materials, over which the Council have no control, it seems rather doubtful if the scheme will be completed and mains water available throughout the area by the middle of 1952, as was promised by the Consulting Water Engineers.

Meanwhile the public health staff take a goodly number of samples from private and some of the small public water supplies and as will be seen from the following table a large proportion of these samples are bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—
Aynho	7	5	2
Boddington	5	3	2
Chacombe	1	—	1
Charlton	4	4	—
Chipping Warden	5	2	3
Croughton	2	2	—
Culworth	2	1	1
Evenley	5	5	—
Eydon	8	4	4
Farthinghoe	2	—	2
Greatworth... ..	1	—	1
Helmdon	11	7	4
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	3	—	3
Kings Sutton	4	1	3
Middleton Cheney	6	2	4
Moreton Pinkney	4	3	1
Radstone	2	1	1
Sulgrave	—	—	—
Syresham	10	4	6
Thenford	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—
Warkworth... ..	2	1	1
Whitfield	1	1	—
	85	46 or 54.2%	39 or 45.8%

**Summary of Result of Water Samples taken for Bacteriological
Examination during past 12 years.**

Year	No. of Samples taken and examined	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1940	0	0	0
1941	15	2	13
1942	8	1	7
1943	64	20	44
1944	78	29	49
1945	63	37	26
1946	70	25	45
1947	58	16	42
1948	63	28	35
1949	94	41	53
1950	117	56	61
1951	85	46	39
TOTALS	715	301	414
			57.80% <i>Unsatisfactory</i>

Throughout yet another year we have fortunately escaped any water-borne infections of a serious character occurring. This may be difficult to comprehend when so much bad water is consumed. Acquired immunity plays its part in protecting these local people who have for many years drunk quantities of contaminated water without any ill effect. But there is a big risk to the stranger who may come to the district and drink the local water to which he or she is unaccustomed and who might in consequence become ill with at least severe gastro-enteritis. The real danger of enteric germs is always lurking around and will continue to do so until the regional supply becomes a *fait accompli*.

This story actually happened in this rural district. "A sample of water derived from a well was being taken from a dairy. In conversation the sampling official was told that this was the best water for miles around and permission was granted to a number of families to take water from this well. Also that relatives of the family, who lived in a large industrial town, made fairly frequent social visits to the premises where they thoroughly enjoyed the flavour of the tea brewed from the well water. So much did the relatives relish this water that they habitually took back receptacles filled with it to their own homes in the large industrial town." Now they have all been disillusioned by a recent letter sent by the health department advising that the water sampled contained a heavy charge of faecal coli and necessitated thorough boiling or other treatment before drinking or use for dairying purposes. It is to be hoped that neither the neighbours nor relatives will in future think such water worth while fetching. This story shows the wide repercussions which would have resulted if, for instance, enteric germs should have gained access to this well water. The Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspectors in the large

industrial town may well have been perplexed over the probable source of infection in the event of an enteric fever outbreak.

Drainage and Sewerage. The work of resewering at Croughton, Chipping Warden, Culworth and Chacombe has started which, together with the provisions of mains water, will mean real progress for these villages.

The health staff supervised the laying and testing of 89 new drains and, in addition, 12 drains were partly relaid. Such work as this will vastly increase when the new sewers and main water supplies become available.

Closet Accommodation. Privies and pail closets will be abolished in favour of water closets as soon as adequate drainage and water supply facilities become available.

Sanitary Inspection of Area. The following table shows that the health officials were again active in regard to environmental conditions in the district. The total of 188 complaints received shows an increase over the previous year and seems to increase almost yearly.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits to Premises during 1951.

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	357
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Inspections—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	394
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	698
Works completed without Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Food Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Notices complied with (including food premises)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Factory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
No. of Public Health Housing Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108

Visits to :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Public Houses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Schools...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drains partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year 1951.

Details of work completed :—

Housing.

	<i>Total.</i>
Roofs repaired or renewed	39
Chimneys repaired or renewed	12
Eaves or valley gutters repaired or renewed	18
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	3
Pumps repaired	1
Premises cleansed by tenants	1
External walls pointed or repaired	10
Dampness abated generally	5
Wall plaster repaired	20
Ceiling plaster repaired	20
Walls redecorated	19
Ceilings redecorated	17
Firegrates or Ranges repaired or renewed	4
Windows repaired or renewed	5
Floors repaired or renewed	9
Staircases repaired or renewed	7
Handrails to Staircase provided	2
Doors repaired or renewed	1
Washing coppers provided or repaired	—
Sashcords provided	4
Yards and pavings repaired or renewed	12
Through ventilation provided	—
Ventilation improved	—
Sub-floor ventilation provided	—
Lighting improved	1
Food Store provided	3
Outbuildings repaired or renewed	—
Houses closed or demolished	4
Verminous rooms disinfested	3
Infected rooms disinfested	—
Water supply laid on	1
Water supply improved	4
Wells closed when polluted	5
Petrol tanks installed	—
Wells repaired	2
Dwelling houses cleansed (domestically)	1

Sanitary Conveniences.

Separate closet accommodation provided	4
Privies abolished	—
Pail Closets abolished	15
Water Closets provided	51
Elsan Closets provided	3
Closets repaired or renewed	14
New urinal accommodation provided	1
Urinals repaired or renewed	4
New closet pans provided	8
New sinks provided	40
New wash-hand basins provided	33
New baths provided	31
New flushing cisterns provided	36
Flushing cisterns repaired	1
Trapped sink waste pipes provided	—
Sink wastes repaired	1

Drainage.

Drains cleared of obstructions	42
Drains repaired or renewed	36
Complete new drainage installed	42
Drains connected to sewer, septic tanks or cesspool	37
Soil or Vent pipes provided	39
Inspection chambers provided	62

Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Septic tanks constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cesspools constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Watercourses cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Nuisances.

Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Public Cleansing. A systematic collection of house refuse is in operation throughout the district.

The Parishes are served as follows :—

<i>Village</i>	<i>Date of Collection</i>	<i>Refuse Tip</i>
King's Sutton	Alternate Thursdays	All refuse is now taken to Moreton Pinkney, Greatworth, Charlton or Helmdon.
Aynho	Alternate Thursdays	
Middleton Cheney	Alternate Thursdays	
Chacombe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Chipping Warden	First Wednesday in each month	
Aston-le-Walls	First Monday in each month	
Boddingtons	First Monday in each month	
Eydon	Second Monday in each month	
Thenford	First Tuesday in each month	
Thorpe Mandeville	First Wednesday in each month	
Marston St. Lawrence	Second Tuesday in each month	
Culworth	First Wednesday in each month	
Moreton Pinkney	Second Monday in each month	
Greatworth	First Tuesday in each month	
Sulgrave	Second Wednesday in each month	
Helmdon	Second Wednesday in each month	
Radstone	Third Wednesday in each month	
Charlton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Croughton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	First Tuesday in each month	
Evenley	First Tuesday in each month	
Whitfield	Third Wednesday in each month	
Syresham	Third Wednesday in each month	
Farthinghoe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Halse	First Tuesday in each month	

Public Cleansing. Despite what I have said in previous reports concerning the storage of house refuse, the provision of suitable sanitary dustbins for this purpose are conspicuous by their absence. It would be possible for the Council to carry a stock of standard sized sanitary dustbins which could be sold to property owners upon application being made by them. I would suggest that this facility could be made known to property owners by the house refuse collection staff, advising that these sanitary dustbins could be purchased from the Council at a cost which might be cheaper than that made by the ordinary trader. Apart from such receptacles providing proper protection to the house refuse during storage at the home, and therefore minimising any possible nuisance therefrom, it would greatly facilitate the actual collection process, and would, of course, present a much more pleasing appearance in the village streets to see an array of standardized and proper bins, rather

than the present miscellaneous and various shaped receptacles which are to be seen at the present time.

Shops and Offices. As previously mentioned most of the shops are small and usually the only persons employed are members of the shop-keeper's family.

Camping Sites. None of a permanent nature were established in the district. Some gipsy camps were seen during potato lifting time. The gipsies are often useful workers to the farmers and after they have finished their job on the farm, soon break up camp and pursue their roamings.

Smoke Abatement. No action was necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are still no such places in the district.

Verminous Premises. Little trouble was experienced in this direction. The Health Department affords assistance in dealing with cockroaches and other pests.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Up to the present time the Council have completed 236 post-war houses, which no one will dispute is a very creditable achievement for a comparatively small district. Altogether the Council now owns 586 houses, all of which have been built by them. Nevertheless I would suggest that a sound housing policy should not be judged solely on the number of new houses erected and that consideration should be given to preserving existing houses.

Housing surveys have revealed a high proportion of houses in the district as having fallen into a state of decay and disrepair which has continued over the past years, and is even in a worsened position to-day, because rigid rent restrictions and the high cost of repairs has made it uneconomical for property owners to keep their properties in repair. There is still a shortage of skilled and unskilled labour in the building industry, and rates of pay are up by 200% since 1939. Timber which was £40 per standard in 1939 is now £120 per standard; bricks then £45-£50 per ton are now £124, and the price of lead has risen from £32 to £200 per ton. All this has a tendency to discourage the execution of repairs by the owners of properties where rent is controlled and uneconomical; reduce the standard of workmanship; and increase the cost of the job.

Hence, arises a problem which must confront every local authority as to how best to stem this deterioration of existing housing accommodation.

By virtue of the heavy costs involved, plus the shortage of labour and materials, the officials are loth to take action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, which is to serve a notice on the owner to carry out repairs necessary to make the house fit for human habitation at a reasonable cost for an implied period of at least 5 years. Alternative procedure is to apply the provisions of Sections 92 and 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which is the serving of an abatement notice where the premises are in such a state as to be prejudicial to health, or a nuisance.

The method adopted in the Brackley Rural area is as laid down by the Public Health Act, 1936, which, I think, is the most satisfactory procedure during the present extremely difficult period through which this Country is passing.

Despite the problems and difficulties I have just narrated, no less than 131 houses received repairs during the year after service of notices from the Health Department. In 108 cases the repairs were executed without resort to formal action. Seventeen statutory notices were served during the year, of which 12 were completed, and I have not much doubt that the remaining 5 will be complied with during 1952. There were 11 outstanding statutory notices from 1950 which were complied with in 1951.

Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses)

	<i>Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position</i>						<i>Post-war Housing Programme</i>					Total No. of Houses owned by Council
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936.	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites.	Developed Sites Houses not begun.	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Houses under Construction.	Houses Completed.	
Aston le Walls				16		16	5					16
Aynho ...						—	24				6	6
Boddington ...		4			2	6	4				8	14
Chacombe ...			3	14		17			9	9	2	19
Chipping Warden						—					27	27
Croughton ...	6		2			8					11	19
Culworth ...	6		5	10		21	14					21
Edgcote ...						—						—
Evenley ...						—					11	11
Eydon ...	8			4		12	9					12
Farthinghoe ...	2		6		2	10					4	14
Greatworth ...	8		8			16	3		7	7		16
Helmdon ...	8			8		16					10	26
Hinton in the Hedges ...						—					6	6
Kings Sutton	18		8	40		66	8		4	4	49	115
Marston St. Lawrence	6					6					6	12
Middleton Cheney	20		22	30		72					38	110
Moreton Pinkney				8		8					9	17
Newbottle ...	6		12			18			7	7	6	24
Radstone ...						—						—
Sulgrave ...	8		6			14	28					14
Syresham ...	10		4	24		38					31	69
Thenford ...						—						—
Thorpe Mandeville	6					6					6	12
Warkworth ...						—						—
Whitfield ...						—					6	6
	112	4	76	154	4	350	95	—	27	27	236	586

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	751
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,562
2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	357
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	470
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	64

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers		108
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By Owners		—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners		—

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		66
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By Owners		12
(b)	By local Authority in default of owners		—

(c) **Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	13

(d) **Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	—

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART 4—OVERCROWDING.

During the year one more case of overcrowding has been added to the list of cases taken from the applications for Council houses. This now makes the total number of overcrowding cases compiled since the war, 86.

The number of cases abated during this period was 8, thereby reducing the outstanding cases to 12—making the total number of cases abated since the end of the war, 74.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises Generally. With a few notable exceptions, the food premises in the district are old and require money spending on them to bring them more up-to-date and in keeping with modern standards for such places. The cost of carrying out structural improvements or repairs to-day is so high that most of the foodshop keepers are loth to embark on a scheme of improvements to their premises. Nevertheless, efforts should be made steadily to improve the standards of all places in which foods are sold or stored, and possibly improvements can be achieved by persistent persuasion on the part of the public health officials together with the goodwill and co-operation of the food traders.

During the year a total of 453 visits were made to various places dealing with food, which shows that a careful watch over the public food supplies was kept.

The storage of various foodstuffs at a general stores was found to be so bad that a very considerable quantity of it had to be condemned as unfit for human consumption. Tins containing food had become so badly rusted as to allow the tin to break down upon the slightest pressure, whilst others were leaking and allowing air to enter. Due to dampness through improper storage, labels affixed to the tins had completely fallen off, whilst other labels were hanging in shreds as one sometimes sees wallpaper hanging from very damp walls in dwelling-houses. Lots of tins and jars were covered with damp, dirt and dust. Some granulated foods had become solidified, and quantities of haricot beans were attacked by weevils, and it was noticed that the sacks containing the beans had been gnawed through by rodents. This food trader had utterly neglected to fulfil his responsibility to the public, and the whole atmosphere at his shop was one of sheer neglect and unsuitability so far as food hygiene is concerned. His record up to this time had shown that he had given much concern to the public health officials. Apart from the risk to health if such foodstuffs as I have just described had been consumed by anyone, a large quantity of valuable food was wasted which, if properly stored and looked after, would otherwise have been used to eke out the meagre food ration for the consumers in that particular locality. Such waste, apart from the potential danger to public health, is in my view a very serious offence and it is to be regretted that, acting upon the advice of the Council's consulting solicitors, this particularly unsuitable food trader was not prosecuted and, in consequence, the case publicised in

the press, which might have proved a deterrent to other food traders who might not be doing all they could to provide for the public food which is clean and safe to eat. With the co-operation of the Ministry of Food officials, I am glad to be able to state that this food trader is now “ out of business ” and his shop closed.

Towards the end of the year a rather serious outbreak of food poisoning occurred in South Northamptonshire and part of North Buckinghamshire which was proved to be caused through eating meat pies containing a specific food poisoning organism. The pies were manufactured outside this district, but within the County, and supplies of them were delivered to several parishes in the Brackley Rural area. Although no cases of food poisoning affecting persons in this district were notified by medical practitioners, enquiries made by your public health officials revealed that several people had, in fact, suffered typical food poisoning symptoms after eating meat pies sent in from a particular establishment in the County. Specimens of faeces taken from one of these persons showed upon bacteriological examination to contain the *Salmonella Minnesota*, as did some of the meat pie taken from this district, which was the causative agent in this outbreak. All the affected persons in this area have made a complete recovery, but out of an approximate total of 500 cases occurring in the outbreak there were unfortunately two deaths. The value of surveillance over food premises is to endeavour to promote such conditions and advise precautions as might reduce to a minimum the possibilities of an outbreak of food poisoning in any district.

	No. in District	No. of Visits
No. of Provision Shops	47	63
No. of Butchers' Shops	12	54
No. of Dining Rooms	7	12
No. of Public Houses or Inns	40	83
No. of Bakehouses	12	47
No. of Registered Dairymen	33	76
No. of Ice Cream Shops	23	107
No. of Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	3	5
No. of Greengrocers and Fruiterers	5	6

DETAILS OF REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS TO FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses.

Cleansed and limewashed	24
Benches or tables cleansed	14
Accumulations of refuse removed	—
Proper fuel containers provided	—
Lighting or ventilation improved	—
Structural repairs carried out	—
Hot water supply provided	—

Dairies.

Cleansed and redecorated	12
Accumulations removed	3
Hot water supply provided for washing hands	—
Wash-hand basins provided	—
Suitable closet accommodation provided	—

Unsatisfactory dairies discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	—
New dairies provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Structural repairs made	...	...	...	...	...	9
Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.						
Hot water supply provided for washing hands	...	...	...	...	...	—
Suitable closet accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Structural repairs made	...	...	...	...	...	3
Metal storage bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Apparatus and utensils cleansed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	9
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cafes and Public Houses						
Hot water supply provided for washing hands	...	...	...	...	...	—
Suitable closet accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Structural repairs made	...	...	...	...	...	10
Metal storage bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Apparatus and utensils cleansed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	9
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	—
Proper urinal accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bar sink with hot and cold water provided	...	...	...	...	...	—

Meat and Foods Inspection. Certificates of unfitness were issued in respect to the following foods, all of which were voluntarily surrendered at the Health Department :

<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>		<i>Disease or Condition</i>
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>	
Tinned luncheon meat ...	16	2	Decomposed, blown and burst.
„ tomatoes ...	4	3	Blown, leaky and pierced.
„ milk ...	28	4	Blown, leaky and pierced.
„ soup ...	6	2	Blown, leaky and pierced, unsound or unwholesome.
„ baked beans ...	4	$\frac{1}{2}$	Decomposed and blown.
„ peas ...	2	$11\frac{1}{2}$	Blown and pierced.
„ sardines ...	...	$8\frac{1}{2}$	Leaky.
Jars apricots ...	2	14	Decomposed.
Tinned meat (various) ...	9	$15\frac{1}{2}$	Decomposed and blown.
„ pears ...	1	13	Pierced.
Jar lemon cheese ...	...	$14\frac{1}{2}$	Rancid.
Tinned pineapple crush ...	1	4	Blown or pierced.
Jars pickle ...	10	10	Unsound or unwholesome.
Packets cocoa ...	3	—	Unsound or unwholesome.
Tinned gravy salt ...	6	—	Unsound or unwholesome.
„ tomato juice ...	5	10	Unsound or unwholesome.
„ baking powder ...	3	8	Unsound or unwholesome.
„ spaghetti ...	1	8	Unsound or unwholesome.
„ beetroot ...	1	—	Unsound or unwholesome.
„ malted food ...	1	—	Unsound or unwholesome.
„ cod liver roe paste	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Unsound or unwholesome.
Jars fish paste ...	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$	Unsound or unwholesome.
Packets pickling spice ...	...	$\frac{3}{4}$	Unsound or unwholesome.
Tinned coffee ...	...	8	Unsound or unwholesome.
„ miscellaneous food ...	24	—	Unsound or unwholesome.
Sack haricot beans ...	14	—	Unsound or unwholesome.
Total ...	151 lbs.	$6\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.	

Milk Supply. The steady improvement in the quality of the milk distributed in this area has been maintained. There were 74 samples of milk taken and tested, of which 64.8% were found satisfactory.

Tabulated below are comparative results of methylene blue tests made on samples taken over the past 12 years.

Year	Total	Result					
		Good		Moderate		Bad	
1940	66	25	40%	14	20%	27	40%
1941	73	40	55%	14	19%	19	26%
1942	54	31	55%	12	23%	11	22%
1943	53	34	64%	9	17%	10	19%
1944	53	37	70%	13	24%	3	6%
1945	46	15	34%	10	21%	21	45%
1946	31	24	77.5%	—	—	7	22.5%
1947	36	28	77.8%	4	11.1%	4	11.1%
1948	19	12	63.2%	3	15.8%	4	21.0%
1949	80	40	50.0%	17	21.3%	23	28.7%
1950	45	40	88.9%	2	4.4%	3	6.7%
1951	74	48	64.8%	11	14.8%	15	20.4%

Since the responsibility of milk production at its source no longer became attached to local authorities one cannot help noticing that extremely little, if any, improvement such as the reconstruction or rebuilding of cowsheds and dairies have taken place at those premises which the public health officers of this Council knew so well, and which they visited so often and where they tried so hard for so long to bring about structural and other improvements. Despite more adequate legal powers perhaps the authority now responsible is finding its task as difficult as did the local authorities when they had control.

Ice-cream. Yearly the number of registered premises for the sale of ice-cream has increased, and there are now 23 in the district, an increase of 7 over last year.

Throughout the summer months 83 samples of ice-cream were obtained and subjected to the methylene blue test, 71 being placed in Grade 1 ; 10 in Grade 2 ; 2 in Grade 3, and none in Grade 4. This shows an improvement on the previous year's figures.

I am pleased to be able to say that, with one exception, all ice-cream sold in the Brackley Rural District is pre-wrapped at the place of production. Risk of contamination between production and consumption is therefore almost negligible.

All reasons for any unsatisfactory sampling results are usually discovered and the cause rectified. Premises are frequently visited by the public health staff and for the year under review, 107 visits were made. No premises would be recommended for the sale of ice-cream until found quite suitable for the purpose.

Since it was discovered last year that "iced lollies" were being made with contaminated water, only lollies obtained from reputable manufacturers are sold in the district.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total of infectious diseases notified throughout the year was 172 ; an increase of 124 against the previous year's total of 48. The increased number consisted mainly of measles and whooping cough notifications, which were 134 and 28 respectively. These diseases occurred mainly amongst the child population. Measles showed a prevalence between the months of January to May, and this was followed by an outbreak of whooping cough during the peak summer months.

Towards the end of the year 3 cases of Poliomyelitis occurred and, like during 1950, were in separate parishes without any apparent connection. All cases were moved to and treated at the Slade Isolation Hospital, Oxford.

There were no cases of scarlet fever or diphtheria in the district. There has been no case of diphtheria since 1944, the case notified in 1948 was not confirmed. This indicates the value of diphtheria immunisation amongst the child population, the advantages of which are now apparent. In the year under review in the Brackley Rural area, 143 children under 5 years of age and 3 between the ages of 5 and 14 were immunised against diphtheria making a total of 146. In addition 32 booster injections were given ; up to the 31st December, 1951, 1,659 children in this district had completed a full course of immunisation.

Before the war the average number of cases of diphtheria for England and Wales was 55,000 a year. Each case needed some six weeks' hospital treatment at a cost of perhaps £4 a week. So the national cost was about £1.3 million a year.

Thanks to diphtheria immunisation, by 1949 the case figure was down to 1,890 a year. Even assuming the cost per case to be up to £8 per week, the overall bill amounts only to about £90,000. By comparison with the original cost of the disease, the cost of the immunisation has been small.

No cases of food poisoning were notified by medical practitioners serving the district, but arising from an outbreak which occurred in this and an adjoining County, several persons in this area were found ill with typical food poisoning symptoms after eating meat pies received from a manufacturer outside the Rural area. Specimens of faeces and portions of the pies showed, after bacteriological examination, the presence of specific food poisoning organisms. The patients in this area made a complete recovery, but there were 2 deaths elsewhere arising from this outbreak.

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis)

IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES

during the year, 1951.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Broncho Pneumonia</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Poliomyelitis</i>	<i>Food Poisoning</i>	<i>Influenza Pneumonia</i>	<i>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>	<i>TOTALS</i>
Aston le Walls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aynho	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Boddington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chacombe	—	—	—	—	3	11	—	—	—	—	—	14
Charlton	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	5
Croughton	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Culworth... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Evenley	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	7
Eydon	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Farthinghoe	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Greatworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Helmdon... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Kings Sutton	—	—	—	—	13	3	1	—	—	—	—	17
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	1	—	—	9
Middleton Cheney	—	—	—	—	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	58
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radstone	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Syresham	—	—	—	3	10	4	—	—	—	—	1	18
Thenford... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
	—	—	—	3	134	28	3	—	3	—	1	172

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Over past 12 years

(Other than Tuberculosis)

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	35	25	18	13	12	10	7	5	6	1	3	—	135
Diphtheria ...	3	11	7	7	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	32
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	10
Pneumonia ...	4	5	4	3	4	2	1	3	2	—	2	6	36
Erysipelas ...	3	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	8
Measles ...	245	120	10	104	6	116	13	49	137	17	29	134	986
Whooping Cough ...	12	50	6	4	54	12	2	8	12	8	7	28	203
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
Polio Encephalitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	3	9
Catarrhal Jaundice ...	—	—	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Malaria ...	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Chicken Pox ...	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	7
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	5	—	13
Mumps ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Amoebiasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	311	213	54	144	92	154	27	68	164	27	48	172	1474

**PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES
OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1951.**

A statement shewing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder:

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Measles	25	5	11	46	39	4	3	—	—	—	—	1	134
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	5	12	3	2	2	—	4	28
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Opthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals ...	27	6	11	49	39	9	15	3	2	2	3	6	172

Tuberculosis—All new cases of tuberculosis, respiratory or non-respiratory, are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. Institutional care, when considered necessary, is arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health and County Tuberculosis Officer in the County Sanatoria.

The living conditions, etc., of persons subsequently discharged from these sanatoria are investigated by this Authority.

During the year 7 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 5 being of a respiratory nature and 2 non-respiratory, which coincidentally is precisely the same as notified last year.

The following table gives the incidence of new cases with their age distribution.

New Cases during 1951.

Age Periods Years	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 — 1	—	1	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	1	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	—	1	1	—
25 — 35	—	1	—	—
35 — 45	—	1	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—
Totals	—	5	2	—

RODENT CONTROL.

As mentioned in my previous Report, Local Authorities are now responsible for ridding premises and land of rats and mice.

The year's work is set out in the following table and when it is realized that this was done without the necessity of the serving of a single notice, some credit must reflect on the Rodent Operative for the tactful and efficient way in which he has performed his duties.

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	43
No. of premises inspected (private and business places)	...	...	...	...	...	77
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	288
No. of premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	77
No. of survey visits made	...	...	...	...	...	109
Quantity of bait laid :						
(a) Prebait	...	...	...	...	...	224½ lbs.
(b) Poison bait	...	...	...	...	...	5 lbs. 5¼ ozs.
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	...	...	245

Sewer Infestations.

<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of manholes baited</i>	<i>No. showing prebait takes</i>
28th-29th August, 1951	6	<i>No take</i>
No. of surveys made	65	

Local Authority undertakings.

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	16
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	80
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	...	242
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated	...	...	...	...	29
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	56
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	...	34
No. of survey visits made	...	...	...	...	94

This shows a grand total of 814 visits made and 521 rat bodies found although success should not be judged by the number of dead rats picked up, but rather by the number of live rats seen after a successful treatment has been made. It is fair to assess that for each dead rat seen after a treatment quite four times that number have been destroyed without visible signs of them.

The Damage by Pests (Thrashing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950, are also enforced in the district, and due to the co-operation of farmers with the Rodent Operative, practically no difficulty has been experienced in regard to the escape of rats during thrashing operations.

Altogether I think the first year's work may be said to be quite satisfactory.



